RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

U.S. Application No.: 09/828,889

Attorney Docket No.: Q63958

REMARKS

I. General Remarks

Claims 1-27 are all the claims currently pending in the present application.

Claim Rejections. All of Claims 1-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Koritzinsky, U.S. Patent No. 6,272,469 ("Koritzinsky"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection as discussed below.

Examiner Interviews. Telephone interviews were conducted with Examiner Sherr on May 25, 2004 and on June 1, 2004. A Statement of the Substance of the Interview follows for each of these interviews.

Statement of the Substance of the Interview of May 25, 2004.

over Koritzinsky was discussed. The Examiner agreed that Koritzinsky and the other references cited, but not relied upon, by the Examiner (Ginter et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,237,786; Sprague et

During the telephone interview of May 25, 2004, the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-27

al., U.S. Patent No. 5,247,575; and Sirbu et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,808,144), are not sufficiently

on point to warrant a rejection of the claims. Therefore, the rejection of the claims over

Koritzinsky will be withdrawn. In view of this, the Examiner kindly agreed to withdraw the

finality of the April 14, 2004 Office Action, and to issue another Office Action after having

performed an additional prior art search for more pertinent references, if such exist. It was also

agreed that the Applicants would respond to the April 14, 2004 Office Action, arguing that the

references were not on point, and including a Statement of the Substance of the Interview.

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Statement of the Substance of the Interview of June 1, 2004 III.

During the telephone interview of June 1, 2004, Applicants explained the general state of

the conventional art, and the invention of the present application, as set out in the specification.

The Examiner again agreed to withdraw the finality of the April 14, 2004 Office Action, and to

issue another Office Action after having performed an further prior art search for additional

references.

IV. Claim Rejections

Regarding the Examiner's §102(e) rejection of Claim 1-27 over Koritzinsky, Applicants

submit that the Koritzinsky reference is unrelated to the present invention, and fails to disclose or

suggest the claimed limitations thereof, for at least the reasons set out in pages 12-16 of

Applicants' January 7, 2004 Amendment, incorporated herein by reference.

Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the §102(e) rejection of

Claims 1-27 over Koritzinsky.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed

to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is

kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Registration No. 55,470

Laura Moskowitz

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC Telephone: (202) 293-7060 Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

washington office 23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

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